

April 21, 2022

OCR Kansas City Office (*via email*: OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov)

Dear OCR Kansas City:

This is a Title IX complaint against Oklahoma State University (OSU) (219 Student Union, Stillwater, OK, 74074) for discriminating against male students through its Engineering Discovery Camp for Girls (also called Engineering Discovery for Girls Camp).

The camp is limited to girls and will be held June 27 to July 1, 2022

(<https://ceat.okstate.edu/extension/professional-development/courses/stem/engineering-discovery-for-girls.html>).

In the alternative, if the camp is indeed open to boys, the advertising of the camp fails to effectively communicate nondiscrimination because the program is explicitly titled as “for girls.”

The program will be run by OSU’s College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology (CEAT). On April 20, 2022, I asked Dr. Jovette Dew, Director of CEAT K-12 STEM Programs, “if the camp for girls is a safe space for girls or if it is open to all genders including boys who present as boys.” Dr. Dew replied that day:

“Our intent is to increase the number of girls interested in engineering. We will make every effort for the girls to be safe on campus.” Increasing the number of girls interested in engineering is an impermissible reason for discrimination on the basis of sex.

I ask OCR to strive to resolve the matter quickly to either (1) stop discriminating in this program and effectively communicate its nondiscrimination or (2) prevent OSU from running the discriminatory program. If OCR cannot act in time and ultimately finds OSU responsible for discrimination by holding the program, I leave it to OCR to determine an appropriate remedy for OSU’s discrimination.

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

I have no relationship to OSU. I do not currently have the name of a student who applied for the program and was denied; an ineligible boy of course would not even try. The language on the webpage and explicitly discriminatory title of the program are discriminatory against the excluded students. I have not filed any other complaint or suit. I do not know which other staff have been involved other than any named in the cited material.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Adam Kissel

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